

Jasper County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Economic growth
- Removal of negative stigma
- Higher quality of life
- Job attainment, retention, advancement
- More community involvement/ service
- Higher expectations of high school graduates
- More students prepared for higher educational attainment/ higher powered jobs

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Better jobs
- Better quality of life
- Higher self esteem
- Higher expectations
- Quality teachers and administrators- incentives
- Need to improve diversity
- Parental/ community involvement in the educational process

Strengths:

- Faith community involvement
- Involvement of Cornerstone Foundation to establish activities for students
- Civic organizations
- Sun City Volunteers
- There is some business support

Challenges:

- No incentives for students to achieve
- Low expectations- expected to fail
- How people perceive children
- Children need positive role models to view
- Latch key children parents working come home late- not available to reap benefits of adult education
- Transportation
- Lack of resources
- Public library hours not conducive to support branches- Bookmobile
- High illiteracy rates
- Lack of partnership/ collaborations
- Attracting highly qualified teachers- affordable housing, transportation, relocation expenses, technical assistance/ incentives/ continued support, recreational/ cultural activities
- Pay scale- LOW/ more competitive
- More recreational/cultural activities for children
- Negative media coverage- no positive support

- 3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
- High school and middle schools have after school programs – need sites in local communities
 - Bonus package to recruit- but not enough
 - Market the county – package the high points
 - Sun City volunteers
 - Increase test scores
 - Aligning standards, partnership with USC, Beaufort
 - Comprehensive school reform
 - Technical assistance money utilize differently- keep from going up a down when leave
 - Took first steps money and started 3-4 year old Spanish children
 - USCB partnership
 - Strong ties with churches
- 4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
- Education needs to start in the homes – parent training
 - Parent expectations- homework on time
 - If we could get all churches in Jasper county to work together and focus on learning
 - Need Moses to come and get 11th graders to churches to direct students